























PROGRESSIVE  
MILITARY INSTRUCTIONS  
FOR FORMING  
MEN AND HORSES  
IN THE  
RUDIMENTS  
OF  
CAVALRY SERVICE.

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BY CAPTAIN SKEENE,  
RIDING MASTER, CAVALRY DEPÔT.

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1807.



MILITARY INSTRUCTIONS

BY JOHN A. J. JONES

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I

BY CAPTAIN J. J. JONES

OF THE

ARMY

OF THE

UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA

AND



TO  
**FIELD MARSHAL**  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS  
**THE DUKE OF YORK,**  
COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF HIS MAJESTY'S FORCES,  
&c. &c. &c.

---

SIR,

**Y**OUR ROYAL HIGHNESS  
having condescended to honor this small  
Book of Instruction with your sanction, is  
a further proof that your ROYAL HIGH-  
NESS is at all times graciously pleased to  
bestow approbation on those who exert  
themselves for the good of the Service.

Altho' conscious of being unequal to  
the task of offering this Book to the  
Public, yet I hope, that at a future  
period, your ROYAL HIGHNESS will  
find



find the Service has derived some advantage from it. If so, I shall ever feel the highest gratification.

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of the highest respect,

SIR,

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

Most devoted, and

Most humble servant,

ROBERT SKEENE.



## PREFACE.

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THE situation in which the author has been placed for many years, has given him a greater opportunity of ascertaining the effectual mode of Instruction, for forming men and horses for cavalry service, than probably falls to the lot of any individual in this country: with the utmost attention, he has selected simple, and expeditious methods, which have given general satisfaction: those found to succeed, have no pretensions to high manege, but are entirely confined to what is conceived, a man and horse should be perfected in, previous to their joining squadron.

These methods are formed into easy progressive lessons, which, if strictly adhered to, will be found to produce the desired effect.

The author takes the liberty of recommending the same to those employed in the riding department, assuring them, it is not from vanity he has made them public, but from a real



real desire of assisting, in bringing that important concern to a uniform system, which will enable those employed, to discharge this arduous duty with satisfaction; as well as insure all recruits, and horses, to be uniformly trained for squadron, and rendered capable of receiving further instruction (either in the riding house or field) that may tend to accomplish a higher state of discipline: which is presumed, will prove beneficial to the cavalry service.

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PROGRESSIVE  
MILITARY INSTRUCTIONS,  
&c. &c. &c.

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PART I.  
INSTRUCTION OF THE RECRUIT.

---

POSITION *previous to* MOUNTING.

THE Recruit to be placed on foot, upright, with his heels together, in line with his horse's fore feet, and close to his shoulder; his right hand to the\* bridle rein, his left arm straight, having a switch in that hand.

\* Snaffle.

B MOUNT.



## MOUNTING.

Words of Command.

*Prepare* } Motion 1st. Face to the right  
*to* } on the left heel, taking the  
*Mount.* } center of the rein with the fore-  
 finger and thumb of the right  
 hand, placing the little finger  
 of the left between, resting both  
 hands on the horse's withers;  
 the right one uppermost.

2nd. With the right hand  
 carefully draw the rein upwards  
 through the left, till the horse's  
 mouth is lightly felt, then let  
 the spare part of the rein fall  
 on the off side of his neck, and  
 with the right hand put a lock  
 of mane into the left, raising  
 the right elbow the height of  
 the shoulder.

3rd. With an upright body\*  
 make

\* With a formed dragoon, of course these three motions  
 may be done as quick as possible.

If

make a half face to the right, on the left heel, drawing the right foot back four inches; at the same time with the right hand take the stirrup leather close to the iron, left foot in the stirrup, and right hand to the cantle of the saddle.

*Mount.*

1st. Give a short spring on the right toe, bearing well on the mane, and cantle of the saddle; quickly rise upright in the stirrup, with the heels together and body erect.\*

2nd. With the body well back, raise the leg sufficiently to clear the horse's croup, and get square into the saddle, quitting the mane, and the

If the carbine is on the swivel, it must be put over the bend of the saddle, (muzzle downward,) on the stirrup being taken.

\* In the act of rising in the stirrup, the mane should be kept fast; as letting it slip, and bearing on the rein alone, would not only disturb the horse, but might occasion an accident, by pulling him backward.



right arm straight, with that hand behind the thigh. \*

### RECOVER SWITCH.

1st. With the right hand close over the left, take hold of the switch.

2nd. Bring it perpendicular, in front of the right eye. Hands even, twelve inches apart, and clear of the saddle.†

### PLACING THE RECRUIT.

The recruit must be placed exactly in the bend of the saddle, his body well up, and the small of the back a little bent; the thighs should be turned inward as much as possible,

\* After a little practice, the man will not be required to remain standing in the stirrup, but the instant he finds his knees straight, get quickly into the saddle.

To assist his coming in lightly, he should bring his right hand from the cantle, to the pommel, and on the seat being gained, removed behind the thigh.

† The squad should now be allowed to sit at ease, and directed to put their switches under their left arm; whilst they are employed in putting up the stirrup, and adjusting the reins, &c.

without

without constraint,\* the knees straight without stiffness; and a little pressure on the heels, to ensure their being kept as low as the toes. The reins to be divided, one in each hand, twelve inches apart, and clear of the saddle; all the fingers, except the little ones, to be in front of the reins, thumbs upward, and firmly laid on them, to prevent their slipping. The length to be such, that the rider may feel the horse's mouth on each side, the spare part to be thrown forward, the wrists to be straight, and switch upright. Elbows close to the body, and in line with the shoulders.

\* In placing a beginner, particular care must be taken not to use force; as a young person (by being often carefully placed) will soon acquire the proper attitude.

The instructor should place one hand to the learner's knee, and the other to his heel; then gently draw the thigh down, turning it toward the saddle:



## LESSON I.

*For One Day ; to continue Half an Hour.*

THE squad is supposed to consist of nine men ;\* after being mounted, and placed as directed, they may be put in motion, (of course at a walk) by turning to either hand ; and the better to get them into a small circle, the front horse should be led once round, directing the others to follow, at a horse's length distance from the one immediately before them. After they have walked the circle a few times, and seem to understand the given distance ; they should be turned inward, halted, and again carefully placed.

It must now be clearly explained to them, how they are to turn their horses ; that both hands are to be inclined the way they are directed to go, without opening the arms from the body, or leaning forward, at the

\* It is presumed that one instructor is fully capable of managing nine recruits ; however, eighteen may be put in one circle, provided there are two teachers. The senior, of course, will give all general words of command.

same time close the leg they are turning toward;\* also explain what is to be done at the word " March," (which must immediately follow,) that both legs are to be pressed to the horses, without rising, or opening the knees from the saddle; at the same time lowering the hands a little, keeping the body well back.

In going the circle, the squad should lean a little inward, with the hand on that side a little lower than the other; and the inside rein somewhat shorter, so that the horses may look the way they are going. As they go on, they should gently feel their horses' mouths from hand to hand, and endeavour as much as possible, to retain the position in which they have been placed; the instant they are found to lose it, they must be halted, and their seats, &c. carefully renewed.† The circling

\* In general, the horse should be turned on his own center; circumstances however, frequently require their being turned on either fore, or hind feet.

† At first the squad should never exceed ten minutes without placing, for which purpose, it would be found



circling should be equally made in both directions, and at the expiration of the given time, turn them inward, and regularly dismount as directed.

N. B. To prevent accidents, the squad should lead their horses to the stable. \*

### DISMOUNTING.

*Return* } Motion 1ft. On the word  
*Switch.* } "Return" being uttered, put  
 the right hand rein into the left,  
 and at the word "Switch," (with  
 the right hand over the left)  
 deliver the switch into the left  
 hand.

advantageous to turn them inward, when the instructor will at once observe what assistance they require.

\* This should be invariably done, till the squad is capable of wearing spurs.

The horse may be led on either side, it is proper to use them to both. The hand he is led by, close to the bridle, fore finger between the reins, and the other hand employed with the spare rein, and switch, (if used) keeping close to the horse's shoulder.

2nd. Quickly remove the right hand behind the thigh.

*Prepare to Dismount.* } 1st. With the fore-finger and thumb of the right hand take the spare rein.

2nd. Shorten the rein, by slipping the left hand near the mane, and with the right hand put a lock of mane into the left, then quickly place it on the saddle, before the right thigh, (fingers directed downward) at the same time quit the right stirrup.\*

*Dismount.* 1st. Sufficiently raise the right leg, to clear the saddle and horse's croup; at the same time remove the right hand to the cantle.

2nd. Step to the ground (of course with the right foot first)

\* At first, stirrups need not be given, but at once spring to the ground on the word "Dismount."

A formed Dragoon will perform these motions as quick as possible, and if the carbine is on the swivel, put it behind the body (butt downward) at the last motion.

turn



turn to the front, and take the rein with the right hand.\*

## LESSON II.

*For Five Days ; Half an Hour each Day.*

THE squad, should be brought in file to the riding house, and delivered to the senior instructor; who will regularly inspect, and mount them as directed: and after repeating the method of turning, commence circling.

As they move on, the instructor should in a distinct, and good tempered manner, explain what the squad must particularly attend to viz.

That they are to keep the distance of half a horse's length, to feel their horses mouths lightly, from hand to hand, to keep the body well up, the chest forward, arms close, and elbows in line with the shoulders: the outward hand to be a little higher than the other, and

\* After a little practice, the men need not remain at the second motion, but the instant the heels come together, step to the ground.

switch

switch upright: to lean a little inward, keeping the heels well down, and as much as possible, turn the thighs toward the saddle.

When the squad begin to understand what is required, and able to keep a little in form, they should be put into a gentle trot: which will be done by the same aids as directed in Lesson the 1st, at the word "MARCH." Care must be taken in closing the legs, not to raise, or open the knees from the saddle, or allow the body to come forward.

There should be no stiffness, or contraction about the recruit, but every part as easy as possible, allowing the small of the back to yield to the motion of the horse; keeping the upper part of the body and arms steady, attentively pressing the inward part of the thighs to the saddle, and get by degrees as much down in the fork as possible. A constant pressure on the heels will assist in strengthening the seat.

The leader must be very regular in his pace, each man looking his own height, and over his horse's head, observe the way he is to go.

They must be directed to guide their horse's  
toward



toward the outside of the horse immediately before them, otherwise the circle will soon become too small.

The instructor should bear in mind how much he assists the learner, by often placing him, especially during the first lessons; on this the man's figure greatly depends: after placing, the squad should again be put in motion, at a walk, and endeavour to gain the trot, at the same instant (on that word being given); continuing it, till the given time is expired, then walk, Halt, be regularly dismounted, and dismissed.

## LESSON III.

*For One Week ; Three Quarters of an Hour  
each Day.*

THE squad, on being regularly mounted and well placed, will begin circling, and after a few turns at a steady walk, fall into a slow trot. It will again be necessary to repeat the particulars to which they must attend. As they are found to improve, increase the pace, but never exceed ten minutes at a time, without either falling into a walk, or at once HALT; and repair the Seats, &c. During the walk, they should be frequently halted, and again moved forward, by the word " MARCH."

To Halt, the reins must be suddenly felt from hand to hand, (but not severely) keeping the body well back, and when the horse is found to obey, ease the reins, and be steady.

They may also from a walk, rein backward a few steps, by feeling the rein, with the body well back; and at the word " FORWARD" ease the hands, and close the legs. In reining backward,



backward, the rider should endeavour to keep the horse straight, chiefly with the hands; either of the legs however, may be gently applied, to prevent his turning; they must also attend to the given distance from the horse before them. At first, little reining back will be sufficient, it must be done slowly.

The squad should also be turned about inward, and at the word, "Forward," continue circling.

After walking, and trotting well, to both hands, they may try to passage, by being taken singly to the wall, and endeavour to get a few steps to right and left.

To do this, both rider and horse should be placed facing the wall, and perfectly square. At the Caution, "To the Right Passage," turn the eyes that way, raising the left hand a little, and at the word, "March," first feel the right rein, then incline the left hand to the right, which will make the horse cross his fore legs, and by gently applying the inside of the left leg, (with the heel well down) will make him cross his hind ones; by which means, the fore, and hind legs, will move alternately; at the word, "Halt," close the

the right leg, and hands even, but keep the eyes steady to the right, till the word, " Eyes Front." Of course the opposite aids will be given, in going to the left.

The squad may also try it together, at a horse's length distance; it must be done very slow, taking care not to close their files. They may be gently reined back a few steps, dressing by either flank, and brought up again; afterward, turned to the Right, and Right about, Left, and Left about; strictly observing the instructions on that head; especially, that the arms are close to the body, the upper part of which must be kept well back.

Finish, (after going large\* a few turns;†) by turning inward, and regularly dismounting as directed.

N. B. In future, the squad may wear spurs.

\* The extent of the school.

† This is merely for the instructor to observe what progress the squad has made.

## LESSON IV.

*For One Week, at Three Quarters of an Hour each Day.*

THE Squad will now be mounted, (without waiting between the motions,) placed and turned into circle. This being the first Lesson with Spurs, particular care must be taken in the use of them; they should never be applied, except when actually necessary; of this, the Recruit cannot be a judge: he must therefore, as much as possible avoid using them, unless by order.

It must be understood, that the Rider's legs are, in general, to be kept as steady as possible; and all aids given by them in the most private manner, particularly in Passaging. Circling should now be done at a quicker pace, and after a smart turn each way, go large\* to the right, at half a horse's length distance; walking well into the corners of the school.

\* It is supposed that nine men have been circling in each end of the school, they will now form one ride, by going large.

The



The squad may now begin bending their horses, by shortening, and using the right rein, more than the left; raising their horses well up with both hands, at the same time urging them forward with the legs.

After taking one full turn, change, by crossing the school at either the second, or fourth corner from the door;\* and take one turn to the left; again change, (as directed) and go straight, by the word "Forward," then halt, and after a short pause, repeat the bending and changing, at a gentle trot.

They may then passage to right and left; rein back, also turn about to both hands, and finish by dismounting, without waiting between the motions.

The squad will now be found capable of riding their horses to, and from school.

\* Provided the door is in the side of the school, if in one end, the change must be made from either the first, or third corner.

## LESSON V.

*For One Week ; One Hour each Day.*

THE squad, on entering the school, may at once form at open files,\* and begin the lesson, by filing off, going large to the right, and forming two circles.

At the caution "To the Right File," they must incline both hands that way, at the same time gently apply the right leg; which will put the horse in an oblique direction, the better to enable his moving off. At the word "March," each should go off in succession, at the distance of half a horse's length from the one before him.

After walking, and trotting well, to right and left in circle, they may try the gallop; before they attempt to gallop, it must be fully explained to them, what particulars are to be attended to, viz.

That they keep their horses well up, feeling their mouths from hand to hand; to lean a

\* The breadth of a horse.

little toward the circle, and make their horses look the way they are going; to have the outward leg close, ready to assist if required; and at all times prepared, for either falling into a walk, or at once halt.

In order to get the horse off with his proper leg leading, the rider, (with his body well back,) should close his outward leg, at the same instant feel the inward rein; should the horse go off improperly, he must be pulled up, and the same helps repeated stronger. It must be explained to the squad, how they are to know when their horses gallop properly.\*

Whilst galloping, the instructors should have a watchful eye on every man, enforcing strict attention to what is laid down.

\* It may be easily known, by the following observation. The horse's inside legs should invariably lead; consequently, the rider's inward shoulder, and thigh, will incline a little forward.

Every dragoon ought to be sensible when his horse goes properly.

Galloping false in school, is both unbecoming and dangerous.



At first, the squad should be frequently allowed to fall into the walk, and when the seats, &c. are corrected, they may begin slowly to gallop again : of course they will go this pace to both hands, and when they are found to perform it steadily, they may walk, and go large.

The squad will now be well passaged, to right, and left, and frequently turned both ways; also reined backward a few steps, and walked briskly "Forward," at that word being given; then "Halt," regularly dismount, again mount, and be dismissed.

## LESSON VI.

*For One Week ; One Hour each Day.*

BEGIN this lesson, by filing into circle, as in the last.

The squad ought now to be nearly capable of placing themselves, and a great deal will depend on their own exertion;\* yet it will be found necessary often to assist them, even in a more forward state.

When they have trotted, and galloped well, to both hands in circle, they should go large, and take two turns in each direction, when it will be seen that every man is thoroughly placed, and by applying their inside legs, cause the horses to go well into each corner.

When the squad is found prepared, at once, (by the word,) fall into a brisk trot: this should be continued some time, frequently halting, and again put in motion, by the word

\* The instructor should instil this into their minds, and hold out, how much it will prove to their advantage, by becoming good horsemen.

"March".\* Also slowly reined backward a few paces, and quickly moved forward on that word being given; they may then be allowed to walk a few paces, in order to place themselves; when they are found so, galloping may be tried to the right. Before they begin, it will be proper to explain how much the squad must be on their guard in galloping large, particularly at the corners. In altering the pace, the same aids should be given, as directed for galloping in circle, viz.

The body kept well back, the inward rein felt more than the other, at the same instant press the outward leg; and be sensible that the horse has taken the gallop properly; otherwise, quickly halt, and repeat the helps.

The rider should bear in mind how he is to know when his horse is going properly, the instructor, on this occasion, should repeat the observations in Lesson V, on that head.

At the gallop, they should be frequently halted, and resume the same pace, at the word "March."†

\* Previously naming the pace.

† Previously giving the caution "Gallop."



When the squad is found steady, they may try the change.—For the first time, it will be well to do it singly. In changing, they must gallop with the same foot leading, across the school, and just before entering the first corner, (with the body well back,) for an instant halt, apply the right leg, and feel the left rein stronger; then move on to the left: of course, the opposite aids will be given in changing to the right. When the squad performs it together, the leader must go very slow, till he finds the last horse has completed the change, then by degrees, increase the pace.

The galloping (large), should be repeated, then passage, rein back, and turn, as before directed; when, after practising to dismount, and mount, dismiss.

## LESSON VII.

*For One Week; One Hour and a Quarter each Day.*

THE squad may be put in motion, by filing large to the right, at a walk, and by the time they have taken one turn in each direction, it may be expected, that every man is correctly placed. After bending to right, and left, as before directed, (by the word), fall into a brisk trot, and at that pace, take three turns to the right, then at one end of the school, circle three times, go large, change, and (by the word) take the gallop, going large and circling as at the trot.

Whilst galloping, they should be frequently halted, and again put forward at the same pace.

The whole of this lesson should be repeated, after halting a few minutes, then form at open files, and slowly passage, head and croup to the wall, the latter will be found most difficult, but done by the same aids.

The

The squad may now be fitted with stirrups, which must be done with the utmost care.\*

When stirrups are used, the knees may be allowed to bend a little, consequently, the legs will naturally fall to their proper place.

There must be no contraction about the ancles, by way of keeping the heels out, if the thighs are sufficiently turned toward the saddle, the heels will be in their proper position; they must however, at all times be kept well down.

The squad should now be taken out of doors, and at a horse's length distance, walk slowly in line, dressing by a flank, and (without halting), turned to the right, and right about, left, and left about; and by inclining,† close, and open files, when at open files, halt, and dismount. After a few minutes pause, again mount, and go carefully over the leap-

\* The length of stirrups (when the thighs are completely down and knees straight) to be so, that the iron is just above the inside of the ancle-bone.

The ball of the toe to rest on the stirrup-iron.

† In inclining, each man's horse should be half a head behind the one he is moving toward, dressing that way.

ing



ing bar; strictly observing the directions on that head——then dismiss.

N. B. For the next lesson, the squad should have bits, and need not use switches.

## LEAPING.

It is presumed, that the squad has now acquired a tolerable good seat, and are capable of maintaining a proper balance, without which requisite, leaping should never be attempted.

At first, it should be practised without stirrups.

The horse should be led to the leaping bar\* by a line, fixed to the eye of the snaffle, a second person should be placed on the other side of the leap, who on having hold of the line, will be ready to render any assistance the learner may require on getting over.

The rider must be careful when the horse rises to his leap, to keep his body sufficiently back, and on a proper balance, allowing the small of the back to yield to the spring of the

\* Which at first should not exceed two feet in height.

horse;

horse; having the knees, and upper part of the calves of his legs, (with his heels well down), very close to the horse, till he has completed the leap.

He on no account must check his horse in the act of leaping, but rather encourage by raising him up with the hand, and (having the arms close to the body), go freely with him, at the same time, be perfectly prepared to assist the horse, by having him well in hand when completely over.

The instructor should clearly explain these particulars, before they begin.

Leaping should at all times be conducted in the most quiet manner, without the use of whips; being particular in bringing the horse straight to his leap, and not suffer him to press on the bar.

When the men are found capable of leaping with stirrups, they must be strictly cautioned to avoid bearing too much on them.

## LESSON VIII.

*For One Week ; One Hour and a Half  
each Day.*

THE squad is now to make use of the bit, and bridoon. The bit rein will be held in the left hand, little finger between, thumb upward, and laid on the rein. The left is called the bridle hand, which should be carried in front of the body, and clear of the saddle.

From the severity of the bit, it must be used in the most delicate manner, and chiefly from the wrist, by the rider cautiously inclining his hand, the way he intends his horse to go. The bridoon rein is, on this occasion, held in the right hand, moving on the rein, to either side, as required.\*

The school lesson should be exactly the same as last week, (allowing half an hour for field business;) on finishing which, the men may have stirrups.

\* The bridoon rein will be chiefly used in bending the horse.



In the field, they should form a circle, or square (in file,) at the distance of two horses length, and at a trot, move in succession from rear to front, passing on the right and left of those before them; beginning on the right of the first, left of the second, and so on, till they are two horses length in front of the whole, and then halt. Each man should move off, when his leader has passed the second horse before him.\*

The squad may now be formed at a horse's length distance, and (at a walk,) moved in line, dressing by a flank, turning to right and left about, also close the files to field† distance, and file to flanks, front, and rear, at a trot.

Wheel as a division,‡ to right and left in circle, the wheeling flank, at a walk, and trot. They may now advance, and retire, singly, a few yards from both flanks; at a trot,

\* In performing this, care should be taken that each man is well placed; and by applying proper aids, turn his horse neatly, without touching those he passes.

† Six inches from knee to knee.

‡ In wheeling by division, or sub-divisions, dress by the wheeling flank, and halt by the standing one.

and

and slow gallop ; taking great care in forming, that each man brings his horse perfectly square into the rank.

When formed, let them tell off by files, and dismount, by the left files reining back half a horse's length.

After standing at ease a few minutes, again mount, practise leaping, and then dismiss.

N. B. In future, the squad may use their stirrups, when going to and from the drill.



## LESSON IX.

*For Six Days; One Hour and a Half each Day.*

DURING this week, the squad will appear with bit, and snaffle, alternate days; beginning with the snaffle.

The school lesson ought to continue the same as the preceding week, on finishing which, stirrups may always be given, and quit the bridoon\* rein.

In the field, after going through the practice of crossing each other from rear to front, as directed in last lesson, they may form at field distance, tell off,† and prove as a division,

Ranks

\* In the field, when the bit rein is used alone, the bridoon rein will lay behind it, on the horse's neck.

† It is the front rank men that tell off, turning their heads, from the flank they begin (without affecting the body); speaking so loud, that the man who covers may distinctly hear.

At the word "flank of divisions, (or sub-divisions,) prove," the right and left of each extend their right arm the height of the shoulder, with the back of the hand upward; and

remain



Ranks of Three's, and Two's; and wheel, to right and left (at a walk and trot,) by Three's, and Two's on the following principle.

The caution being given, "Three's Right Wheel," at the word "March," the wheel is made on the center man; who will turn on his horse's fore feet, the right hand man reining back, closing his right leg, and the left hand man moving forward; at the word "Halt Dress," eyes attentive to the original front, (the left.)

In wheeling up, they simply wheel back again; by the left reining back, closing his left leg, and the right coming forward; invariably on the center man.

Wheeling to the left, is the same as directed for wheeling up.\* In wheeling about, exactly on the same principle, always to the right about.

Wheeling by two's, is a half wheel. At the word "Two's Right wheel," the whole will remain so till they receive the word, "As you were." The same to be observed by Three's and Right Files. In proving, the rear rank remain steady.

\* In column of threes, the men next the original front should have one foot distance from the man's horse immediately before them.

incline

incline their horses that way, without reining back, and the left files advance a little; the other half wheel is made in succession, as it becomes their turn to go off. At the word, "Left form," the leading two wheel to the left, and halt; on whom the others form, keeping their eyes steady to that point, till they receive the word, "Eyes Front:" the same to be observed in going to the left.

After the squad has been well worked by Three's, and Two's, they should be moved as a division, to right, and left, (at a walk and trot,) in a small square; regularly wheeling at each angle.

When steady at this, they may file\* to flanks, front, and rear, at all paces; taking great care in forming, not to crowd; also file from the right of Threes, to the front, form, and dismount for a few minutes; again mount, and dismiss.

\* In file, the distance should never exceed a horse's length.

## LESSON X.

*For Twelve Days; One Hour and a Half each Day.*

THIS fortnight should be intirely devoted to field exercise ; and to be the better enabled to act in double rank, it will be an advantage, to have an equal number of men and horses, in the same state of forwardness.

They should appear in field and marching order, alternate days, only making use of the bit rein.

After forming in two ranks at close order,\* tell off, and prove, by divisions, sub-divisions, Threes, and Twos; and on being correctly dressed, let the rear rank take order,† by reining back, and practise drawing, and returning swords,‡ then close the rank, slope swords, and begin marching in line, dressing by a flank.

\* The rear rank, half a horse's length from the front.

† The rear rank, back one third of the division's front.

‡ Agreeable to the sword regulations, a copy of which is annexed to this lesson.

When



When they are found to do this steadily at a walk, and trot, wheel to right and left in divisions, and sub-divisions, at the same pace.

Wheel to both flanks, by Threes, and Twos, at a walk, trot, and gallop ; also perform all filings at a quick pace.

When in column of Threes, double the rear rank behind the front, and file from the right of Threes, to the front.

The whole of this to be repeated as often as the given time will admit, increasing the pace, as the division is found to improve.

In the last week, they should be well worked in line at a walk, trot, and rapid gallop ; when nearly time to dismiss, let them pass in parade, with open ranks, and swords carried ; also, rank off\* in single file, at half a horse's length distance, covering exactly ; then form, return swords, and dismount. After a few minutes pause, again mount, and dismiss.

The next fortnight should be employed in practising the carbine and pistol exercise, (as recommended in this work,) when it may be

\* In ranking off, each man should make the most of himself, and horse, by being perfectly placed, and looking full at the person he is passing.

fully expected, the squad is capable of acting in squadron.

N. B. Should any man be found incapable of being brought forward with the squad to which he is first appointed, of course, he must be allowed a little more time, and brought forward with another.

### DRAWING OF SWORDS.

“The sword will be drawn and brought to the position in which it is to be “carried,” in three motions.

Words of Command.

*Draw Swords.* Motion 1st. “Upon the word “Swords” being uttered, direct the eyes to the sword hilt, bringing the right hand with a sharp action across the body and over the bridle arm to the sword-knot, placing it upon the wrist, and giving the hand a couple of turns inwards, in order to make it fast, at the same time seize the hilt, and wait in  
this

## Words of Command.

this position for the second motion, which will be made by the fleugel-man on the right. The back of the hand is to be to the rear."

2d. "Draw the sword from the scabbard with a full extended arm, at the same time sink the hand till the hilt of the sword is immediately under the chin, with the blade perpendicular, and the back of the hand outwards."

3d. "Bring the hilt down to be in a line with the bridle hand, the elbow near the body, the blade perpendicular, and the wrist in a small degree rounded, which turns the edge inwards in the direction of the horse's left ear."

## SLOPING OF SWORDS.

*Slope Swords.* "Keep the sword-arm in the exact position, pointed out for



Words of Command.

the carrying of swords; but distend the second, third, and fourth fingers from the gripe of the sword, in order that the back of the blade may meet the hollow of the right shoulder, where it is to be supported with the edge directed to the front."

"When in this position, the sword will be kept steady, and is to be without motion, at whatever pace the horse may be moving."

### RETURNING OF SWORDS.

"The sword is always to be returned from the carried position, and not from the sloped. This is likewise executed in three motions, dressing by the right."

<i>Return</i>	}	Motion 1st.	"Carry the
<i>Swords.</i>		sword-hilt to the hollow of the	
		left shoulder, having the back	
		of the hand outward, and the	
		blade perpendicular, without	
		pausing	

## Words of Command.

pausing. Drop the blade (but not the hand) to the rear close by the left shoulder, directing the eyes to the scabbard,\* in which the blade is immediately to be placed, and returned until the hand and elbow become in a line with each other, square across the body, and keeping the back of the hand directed to the rear."

2d. "Thrust the sword home into the scabbard, and loosen instantly the sword-knot from the wrist, keeping the hand upon the hilt."

3d. "On the motion from the fleugel man, carry the right hand from the hilt with a smart action to the off side."

\* By resting the blade upon the bridle arm, the point will easily meet the scabbard.

## MODE of using CARBINE and PISTOL.

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### CARBINE.

It is presumed, that previous to a dragoon using arms on horseback, he has been taught to load on foot, it is therefore deemed unnecessary to enter minutely into the detail of loading.

The squad should be formed at field distance; and at the word, "spring and unstrap," secure the right hand glove in the holster or horse-shoe case, quickly unbuckle the carbine-strap, and with the small of the butt in the left hand, fix the swivel, letting it drop behind the thigh (muzzle downward); then resume an upright position, and be steady.

Words of Command.

<i>Advance</i>	}	Motion 1st. With the right hand, seize the carbine before the lock.
<i>Arms.</i>		

2d. Raise the muzzle in an oblique direction, in line with the



Words of Command.

the horse's left ear, the hand resting on the right thigh.

*Prime and Load.*

} Motion 1st. From the advance, quickly shift the carbine into the bridle hand to the priming position, and regularly open pan, prime and shut as directed.

2d. Turn the muzzle toward the right shoulder, by pressing the butt from the body, (under the reins) and bring it to the near side of the horse's shoulder, barrel to the front.

3d. Allow the carbine to sink as low as the belt will admit, at the same time shift the right hand to the muzzle, in order to load.

When loaded, let the right hand resume its former position before the lock, and bring it to the advance, (by that word).

*Make Ready.*

Quickly remove the carbine into the bridle hand to the priming position, and cock, instantly

## Words of Command.

stantly coming to the recover, holding the carbine in the right hand by the small of the butt, which must rest on the right holster.

*Front present.* Rise a little in the stirrups, and take proper aim, being particularly careful, that the carbine is four inches clear of the horse's head.

*Fire.* Instantly after firing, recover,\* and load as directed.

*Left present.* Quickly turn the right thigh inward, raise the left elbow, rest on, and present immediately over the bend of that arm.

*Right present.* Turn on both thighs to enable the right shoulder being thrown back, and present with the right hand, without the assistance of the left, taking the usual aim.

\* This should be invariably done, whether the piece is to be immediately loaded or not, as it will relieve the horse's anxiety, and prevent accidents.

Words of Command.

<i>Return</i>	}	The muzzle to be returned to the bucket, swivel undone, strap up, and put on the glove, then be steady.
<i>Carbine.</i>		

### PISTOL.

Loading of the pistol is similar to that of the carbine, and presented to front, right, left, and rear; at all times taking good aim, by looking eagerly along the barrel, and as directed with the carbine, invariably recover\* for an instant after firing.

\* At the recover the pistol should be in front of the right breast, and muzzle rather sloping forward.



## PART II.

### FORMATION OF THE HORSE.

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#### LESSON I.

*For Six Days; Half an Hour each Day.*

**I**T may be naturally supposed, that a horse intended for the Army is four years old, it is therefore probable he may have been accustomed to a bridle, and perhaps a saddle.

If the horse is in perfect health, and tolerable condition, he may begin to work gently.

Three horses at a time may be led to the riding school, (in snaffles,) and a cavesson put properly on each, when in the presence of the riding master, or his assistant, they should be carefully saddled without the crupper.

Particular

Particular care should be paid, that the girths are not buckled too tight, many horses have been made troublesome, from that circumstance. Should the horse dislike the saddle, and seem inclined to plunge, hold him fast by the bridle and cavesson, until he becomes reconciled. Previous to his being led off, a surcingle (belonging to the riding department,) should be put on, having a fixed hook, similar to that upon a harness saddle, with a pulley in it, for the bridle rein to run on.

When the surcingle is on, the hook must be placed on the upper part of the saddle, where the rein will be put, at such length, that the horse can bear lightly on the bit.

When thus equipped, let the horse be led off quietly, and begin circling to the left; at first, he should be led once or twice round the circle, shewing him where he is to go.

In going off, should the horse again shew a disposition to plunge, instantly halt and correct him, by holding his head well up, and speaking sharply to him, but on no account beat him; by this correction he will perfectly understand

understand his having done wrong, and probably may not attempt it again.

The line of the cavesson should be held with great attention, feeling and easing the horse, as is found necessary. A second person should follow, having a whip in his hand, who by frequently moving it on the ground, will be the means of helping the horse forward; if he is found to be idle, or heavy, touch him lightly with the whip, but at all times avoid severity.

He should be trotted for the space of ten minutes, then brought into the center of the circle, halted and caressed; after a few minutes pause, begin circling in the same manner to the right, leading off as at first, then halt, and again encourage him.

The cavesson and surcingle may now be taken off, and the horse put up along the wall in hand, the length of the school and back again.

The person who leads him, should be placed immediately before his head, with a hand to each rein, close to the eyes of the snaffle, holding him well up, and feeling his mouth  
from



from hand to hand ; at the same time stepping slowly backward. A second person should follow, and with his whip urge the horse gently on. At first only a few steps of this at a time should be taken, frequently halting, and again moving forward.

When he has finished the given distance, halt, and caress him ; afterward allow him to be led to the stable.

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## LESSON II.

*For Six Days ; Half an Hour each Day.*

WHEN the cavesson and surcingle are properly put on, lead off and begin circling as in last lesson, and after working to right and left the time specified, put the horse up along the wall as directed. A full turn of this in both directions, may now be given. Then try the passage to the right.

This should be done by the horse being placed perfectly straight, with his head facing and close to the wall, the person who leads him must be on his near side and close to his shoulder, having the left eye of the snaffle in his left hand, and with his right arm over the horse's neck, lead him by the right rein that way, at the same time with his left hand press the horse from him, which will cause him to cross his fore-legs ; the person who follows his hind quarters, will, by moving his whip on the ground, assist him in crossing his hind ones. Of course the opposite means will be  
used

used in going to the left. At first only a few steps of the passage should be taken, frequently halting, and trying it again. He may also be reined back a little, and again put forward, then halted, and encouraged, before he is dismissed.

N. B. Previous to dismissing the horse, (on the first day of this lesson,) he may be carefully cruppered, which must be done in the riding house, by the assistance of the rough riders, and afterwards quietly led off a few steps.



## LESSON III.

*For Six Days; Three Quarters of an Hour  
each Day.*

It may now be expected, that the horse will begin to be tractable, and go in circle with freedom, lifting his feet actively, without pulling against the cavesson line.

It is probable, he will be more supple to one hand, than the other, by this, circling must be guided, and of course worked most to the hand at which he is found heaviest.

After sufficient circling, and working in hand as directed in last lesson, the three horses may be carefully mounted, by experienced riders.

Should any of them be unsteady, or troublesome, a person should invariably lead them till they become quiet, when they are so, they may be halted, encouraged, and the cavesson taken off. They should again be  
led

led off a few steps, and quietly made to go large, taking a full turn to the right, then at one end of the school, circle twice;—go large,—change, and the same to the left. From the walk, they should be often halted, and put in motion again: also made to take a few steps backward, and (without halting) put briskly forward; after which halt and caress them, and be very particular in quietly dismounting, then dismiss.

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## LESSON IV.

*For Six Days ; Thrée Quarters of an Hour  
each Day.*

PREVIOUS to mounting, circling should be made at a quick pace, even to a gallop. If the horse does not take the gallop with ease, and nearly of his own accord, on no account press him, but continue circling at a trot ; should he take the gallop, be sure he goes with his inward legs leading, if otherwise, immediately stop him, (by shaking the cavesson line,) and repeat the trial, when it is probable he will go right. At first, only a few turns of the gallop must be given at a time. The horse may now be halted, and the cavesson taken off ; then after going through the lesson in hand as last week, mount, and begin, by going large to the right at a steady walk. When they walk freely, and carry themselves tolerably well, they may be put into a gentle trot, taking two full turns in both directions, then walk. In altering the pace, they must not be allowed to make any stop, but at once, fall into a full active walk.

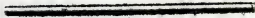
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The trot may be repeated, afterward gently try the half passage to right, and left. Should the horse refuse, on no account force him, but patiently persevere in obtaining it. They may also rein back a few steps, and turn about to both hands; then dismount, and quietly put them over the leaping bar,\* at a moderate height; again mount, and dismiss.

N. B. In future, the horses may be rode to and from the school.

\* The horse should be brought straight to his leap, and encouraged to take it of his own accord; he should not be allowed to hurry, or press on the bar.



## LESSON V.

*For Six Days ; Three Quarters of an Hour  
each Day.*

CIRCLING with the cavesson may now be discontinued, and a squad, consisting of twelve horses (equally forward,) formed.

The horses should be rode to the school by steady and good horsemen, and after being regularly formed at a horse's length distance, they may begin the lesson by going large to the right at a walk. Particular attention must be paid to the placing of the horses, observing that their heads are carried well,\* their paces full and regular, and that they move actively.

As they go on, the riders should endeavour to improve their horses mouths, by lightly feeling, and playing with the bit ; and at the same time press sufficiently with the legs, to urge them up to their bridles, but strictly avoid touching them with the spur.

\* It often happens that young horses raise their heads higher than their proper attitude ; in that case, let a pair of running reins be used, and discontinued as soon as possible.

After

After the squad has taken a few turns in both directions, they may bend a little to right and left, then commence a trot, and after taking a couple of turns each way, walk, and (in circle,) try the gallop to the right. It must be done slowly, frequently falling into a walk, then begin again. It may also be tried to the left, then walk, and go large. At the walk, let them often halt, and move on again; also rein back a little, and without halting, again move forward: then passage to the right and left, and turn to right and left about. They may now be formed at open files, regularly dismount, and lead their horses over the bar; again mount, and dismiss.

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## LESSON VI.

*For Six Days ; One Hour each Day.*

It may be now presumed, that the squad will be capable of performing a brisk lesson; they may at once file off, and go large to the right at a walk; and after taking one turn each way, bend to the right and left, then fall into a brisk trot, the whole altering the pace at the word.

They should go large, and circle twice to the right, change, and the same to the left; again change, and take the gallop, going large and circling, as at the trot. At the gallop, the change should be made very slow, and the riders must be particular in applying the proper aids, in due time; of course care will be taken, that they gallop properly.

This part of the lesson should be repeated, after being halted a few minutes, during which time, the horses should be caressed.

The squad may now be quietly passaged, head and croup to the wall, then formed at open files, and after being dismounted for a  
few

few minutes, again mounted, and taken out of doors\*; when at a horse's length distance, they should be steadily walked in line, turned to the right, and right about, left, and left about; also on the march, by inclining, close and open their files. After being formed at exercising distance, advance by alternate files, a few yards, halt and let the rear files pass through the intervals. They may then form and dismount, by the left files reining back half a horse's length; after a short pause, again mount, and the horses may now be rode over the leap, then dismissed.

N. B. For the next lesson, the squad should have bits, with cloaks folded behind.

\* It will now be proper before leaving the school, to have a drum beat for a few minutes each day; also shew the horses some flags of different colours, and fire off a few cartridges.

## LESSON VII.

*For Twelve Days; One Hour each Day.*

THE squad is now to make use of the bit and bridoon, which ought to be well fitted, and used with the utmost care. The bridoon rein to be now in the right hand, by which, the bending should be chiefly done. In the first day of this lesson, it will be proper to leave the bit rein entirely alone, allowing it to remain on the horse's neck,\* during which time the bridoon rein should be used in both hands.

The school lesson of this fortnight, to be exactly the same as last week, at an encreased pace, after which they should be taken to the field, and at open files, and field distance, marched in line, at a walk, and trot, open and close their files, both by passaging, and in file. File to flanks, front, and rear, at a brisk

\* This is done to give the horse an opportunity of feeling the bit, before it is made use of by the rider.

trot;



trot; and advance by alternate files, form, and work to both flanks, by three's and two's; also wheel as a division in a complete circle to right and left, the wheeling flank increasing the pace from a walk, to a smart gallop.

The squad may now move in a small square, to right and left, regularly wheeling as a division, at each angle. They may then dismount for a few minutes, again mount, and after practising leaping, be dismissed.



## LESSON VIII.

*For Twelve Days; One Hour and a Quarter  
each Day.*

DURING this fortnight, the squad should use bits and snaffles, alternate days; beginning with the snaffle. The days they appear with bits, they should also have swords\*, and cloaks folded behind.

The school lesson should continue the same as the last fortnight, only performing it once each day. In the field, they should form at field distance, and tell off, as a division, sub-divisions, three's and two's; and after drawing swords, begin marching in line, at a walk; on being found steady at that pace, they may trot and gallop. Wheel in division, and sub-divisions, to right and left, at a walk

\* The first day with swords, it would be proper to allow the men to draw and return them quietly without any word of command.

and trot; also wheel by three's and two's to each flank: and go through all the filings, at a trot, and slow gallop. They should advance a few yards from both flanks in single file, form, and retire by three's; also advance by alternate files as in last lesson; then form, and dismount, again mount, and after leaping, dismiss.

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## LESSON IX.

*For One Hour and a Half each Day.*

THIS fortnight should be wholly employed in field exercise, and it would prove an advantage to have an equal number added to the squad.

They should constantly appear either in field, or marching order, only making use of the bit rein.

After being formed in two ranks, at close order, tell off as a division, sub-divisions, three's and two's; let the rear rank take order, by slowly reining back, and regularly practise drawing and returning swords, till the horses are found steady, when the rank may be closed, and begin marching in line, at a walk, dressing by a flank. Wheel to right and left, in divisions, and sub-divisions, at a walk and trot. Wheel to both flanks by three's, and two's, at a trot and gallop, also perform all the filings at the same pace.

The whole of this should be repeated, according to the time allowed, and the pace  
guided

guided by the steadiness and improvement of the horses.

A few cartridges may be used each day, (commencing at extended files,) being particularly careful, that the carbine, or pistol, is kept a good distance from the horse's head. At the expiration of this fortnight, it may be fully expected that this squad of horses are perfectly fit to act in squadron.

N. B. Should any horse be (found from being too young, or from weakness) incapable of performing his lesson with the squad to which he is first appointed, he should be allowed a little more time, and brought forward with another.

FINIS.

The first of these is the question of the right of the people to know the truth about the government and its actions.

The second is the question of the right of the people to participate in the government and to elect their representatives.

The third is the question of the right of the people to be free from the arbitrary power of the government and its officials.

The fourth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the oppression of the government and its officials.

The fifth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the corruption of the government and its officials.

The sixth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the poverty of the government and its officials.

The seventh is the question of the right of the people to be free from the ignorance of the government and its officials.

The eighth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the disease of the government and its officials.

The ninth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the crime of the government and its officials.

The tenth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the war of the government and its officials.

The eleventh is the question of the right of the people to be free from the famine of the government and its officials.

The twelfth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the pestilence of the government and its officials.

The thirteenth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the earthquake of the government and its officials.

The fourteenth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the flood of the government and its officials.

The fifteenth is the question of the right of the people to be free from the fire of the government and its officials.



